(b) the amount spent in purchasing these equipments and the over payment made, if any;

(c) whether Doordarshan allowed additional free commercial time with banking facility on national channels against programmes telecast on Doordarshan International channel; and

(d) the loss caused as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d)The C&AG in Paragraph 5.1. of its Report No.4 of 2003 (Civil) has pointed out Doordarshan's failure to ensure proper use of digital storage system that resulted in wasteful expenditure of Rs.5.40 crore on its purchase besides over payment of Rs. 2.40 crore. The C&AG in Para 5.2 of the said report has also pointed out that Doordarshan's decision to allow additional Free Commercial Time with banking facility on National Channel against programmes telecast on Doordarshan International Channel resulted in loss of Rs.2.31.

Entertainment sector

590. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some major changes are contemplated for entertainment sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the two Committees appointed for the purpose have since submitted their reports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d)The Government has taken several initiatives to bring about changes in the entertainment sector in the interest of the overall development of this sector. Access to institutional and bank financing has been facilitated for the entertainment industry, including films, Foreign Direct Investment policy for the film sector has been liberalized and international visibility has been afforded to Indian films by participation in global markets.

Apart from these, in order to suggest a policy framework for the entertainment industry, both at the centre and the States, a Committee **tor** Development of the Entertainment Sector has been set up. The Committee had given its first set of recommendations which, including a recommendation to fix a ceiling of 60% on entertainment tax, were circulated among the States and many State Governments have lowered their entertainment tax rates. An anti piracy training programme was also organized for police officers based on the recommendations of the Committee, which is expected to be the precursor of many such training programmes.

In its recent meeting the Committee has made recommendations, mainly relating to a further reduction in entertainment tax rates, appointment of a nodal officer in each State for assisting in anti piracy matters and facilitating a single point clearance by State Governments for foreign film crews shooting in India. The second set of recommendations of the Committee have also been persuasively circulated to State Governments.

In order to bring about a receptive investment regime in the entertainment sector, within India, a Committee has recently been setup to suggest a strategy to facilitate the flow of venture capital into the sector.

The Government had also constituted a Committee to make recommendations for Radio Broadcasting. The executive summary of this committee's report may be seen on the Ministry's website.

Tariff for cable channels

†591. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to fix tariff for cable channels;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether the task force.has submitted its report to Government;

(d) if so, what are its recommendations; and

(e) the details of the development in cable T.V. industry that prompted Government to consider for bringing CAS in the country; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.